

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 144

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAHAM

FUNDS/FUNDING: Creates the Louisiana Jobs Now Fund for the purpose of funding postsecondary education degree and certificate production in high-demand fields

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3138.7, relative to special treasury funds; to establish the Louisiana Jobs  
3 Now Fund as a special fund in the state treasury; to provide for deposits into the  
4 fund; to provide for uses of the fund; to provide for certain limitations; to require  
5 certain reports; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:3138.7 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §3138.7. Louisiana Jobs Now Fund

9 A.(1) The Louisiana Jobs Now Fund, hereinafter referred to in this Section  
10 as the "fund", is hereby created within the state treasury as a special fund for the  
11 purpose of funding degree and certificate production in high-demand fields through  
12 programs offered by Louisiana's public postsecondary education institutions and  
13 institutions that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges  
14 and Universities to meet the state's current and future workforce needs.

15 (2) Any money donated to the fund or appropriated to the fund by the  
16 legislature shall be deposited in the fund. Monies in the fund shall be invested in the  
17 same manner as monies in the general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies  
18 in the fund shall be credited to the fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in  
19 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

1           B.(1) Monies in the fund shall be appropriated to the Board of Regents to be  
2           distributed to and used by postsecondary education institutions in accordance with  
3           the distribution method to be developed as provided for in this Section.

4           (2) The funds distributed pursuant to this Section shall be used by the  
5           institution towards degree production at four-year institutions in science, technology,  
6           engineering, and math (STEM) programs and towards degree and certificate  
7           production at two-year, community, and technical colleges in fields required for  
8           four-star or five-star jobs as defined by the Louisiana Workforce Commission's  
9           Louisiana Star Jobs program or its successors.

10          (3) Any funds distributed to an institution that remain unexpended or  
11          unobligated at the end of the fiscal year shall be available for use in the subsequent  
12          fiscal year by an institution pursuant to its implementation plan.

13          (4)(a) Funding shall be distributed by the Board of Regents to the  
14          postsecondary education management boards and Louisiana Association of  
15          Independent Colleges and Universities only upon the certification by the  
16          postsecondary education management board and the association on behalf of the  
17          receiving institution that a match of no less than twenty-five percent of the amount  
18          of funding to be distributed has been guaranteed by a private entity. The certification  
19          shall detail the type of private match to be provided, which may include but is not  
20          limited to: cash; in-kind donations of technology, personnel, construction materials,  
21          facility modification, or corporeal property; internships; scholarships; sponsorship  
22          of staff or faculty; or faculty endowment.

23          (b) In any fiscal year that the total appropriated funds from the sum of the  
24          state general fund and dedicated funds for postsecondary education are below the  
25          appropriated funding in the prior fiscal year, a postsecondary education management  
26          board and the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities may  
27          delay or waive requirements as set forth in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

28          C. The method for distribution of funds shall be as follows:

1           (1) Fifty percent of funds shall be distributed to four-year institutions based  
2           on each institution's prior year degree production in science, technology,  
3           engineering, and math (STEM) programs.

4           (2) Fifty percent of funds shall be distributed to two-year, community, and  
5           technical colleges based on each institution's prior year degree and certificate  
6           production in fields required for four-star or five-star jobs as defined by the  
7           Louisiana Workforce Commission's Louisiana Star Jobs program or its successors.

8           (3) The commissioner of higher education, the presidents of the four public  
9           postsecondary education systems, and the president of the Louisiana Association of  
10           Independent Colleges and Universities annually shall review and approve the  
11           distribution method, the list of degree and certificate programs upon which the  
12           distribution is based, and the final distribution amounts.

13           D. The Board of Regents annually shall submit a report to the Senate  
14           Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee  
15           on Education, and the House Committee on Appropriations. The report shall include  
16           the distribution method, the list of degree and certificate programs upon which the  
17           distribution is based, the final distribution amounts, the number of jobs created as a  
18           result of the distribution, and the method and data used to determine the reported  
19           number of jobs created. Each postsecondary education management board and the  
20           Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities shall report to the  
21           Board of Regents the information necessary for the Board of Regents to satisfy the  
22           requirements of this Subsection.

23           E. The fund is in addition to, and separate from, any monies appropriated or  
24           allocated to any postsecondary education management board. Allocations from this  
25           fund shall not be included in the Board of Regents' funding formula calculation, nor  
26           shall it supplant any state general fund allocations provided to institutions. The  
27           availability of the fund shall not in any way substitute, limit, or otherwise affect the  
28           allocation of any funds otherwise available to those institutions under state or federal  
29           laws.

1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2018; if vetoed by the governor  
2 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,  
3 2018, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 144 Re-Reengrossed

2018 Regular Session

Abraham

**Abstract:** Creates the La. Jobs Now Fund and provides for deposits and uses of the fund.

Proposed law creates the La. Jobs Now Fund (the fund) for the purpose of funding degree and certificate production in high-demand fields through programs offered by La.'s public postsecondary education institutions and institutions that are members of the La. Assoc. of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) to meet the state's current and future workforce needs.

Proposed law requires monies in the fund to be appropriated to the Board of Regents to be distributed to and used by postsecondary education institutions towards degree production at four-year universities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs and towards degree and certificate production at two-year, community, and technical colleges in fields required for four-star or five-star jobs as defined by the La. Workforce Commission's La. Star Jobs program. However, prior to distribution of the funds, proposed law requires certification by the postsecondary education management boards and LAICU on behalf of the receiving institution that a match of no less than 25% of the funding is guaranteed by a private entity.

Proposed law provides for distribution of funds as follows:

- (1) 50% to four-year universities based on each institution's prior year degree production in STEM programs.
- (2) 50% to two-year, community, and technical colleges based on each institution's prior year degree and certificate production in fields required for four-star or five-star jobs.

Proposed law requires the Bd. of Regents annually to submit a report to certain legislative committees. Provides that the report shall include specified information including but not limited to the final distribution amounts and the number of jobs created as a result of such distribution.

Proposed law prohibits monies from the fund supplanting any state general fund allocations provided to institutions.

Effective July 1, 2018.

(Adds R.S. 17:3138.7)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Add institutions that are members of LAICU as eligible to receive and use monies in the La. Jobs Now Fund.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that appropriations shall be to the Board of Regents for distribution to the postsecondary education boards and members of the LAICU rather than directly to the boards and LAICU members.
2. Add the commissioner of higher education to individuals reviewing and approving the distribution method.
3. Change "distribution methodology" to "distribution method".